

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 02203 091914Z

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3047

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2203

NODIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CARAMANLIS, CONSTANTINE, GR US

REF ATHENS 2152

1. MOLYVIATIS HAS JUST INFORMED ME THAT CARAMANLIS DOES NOT REPEAT NOT CONCUR IN THE PROPOSED ANNOUNCEMENT TOMORROW, MARCH 10, OF HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, JUNE 15-16. CARAMANLIS ACKNOWLEDGES THE IMPORTANCE WHICH WE ATTACH TO SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT TOMORROW BUT HE ASKS THAT WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THE EXTREMELY DELICATE POLITICAL SITUATION HE FACES IN THE COUNTRY AND THE IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHES TO DEFERRING THE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR SOME ADDITIONAL WEEKS, PREFERABLY UNTIL LATE MAY. I HAVE STRESSED TO CARAMANLIS THE IMPRACTICABILITY OF DEFERRING THAT LONG AND I THINK THAT HE MAY BE WILLING TO COMPROMISE ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT DATE AFTER A FEW MORE WEEKS, BUT HE IS DEFINITELY OPPOSED TO MAKING THE ANNOUNCEMENT TOMORROW.

2. WE COULD GO AHEAD, OF COURSE, AND MAKE SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT WITHOUT HIS CONCURRENCE, BUT I RECOMMEND MOST STRONGLY AGAINST IT. HE IS PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF REACTING ANGRILY AND PERHAPS EVEN CANCELLING THE VISIT -- OR AT LEAST POSTPONING IT. EVEN WERE HE NOT TO DO THIS -- AND OBVIOUSLY
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THAT WOULD BE HIS MOST EXTREME REACTION -- IT WOULD

SOUND A NEW AND VERY SOUR CHORD IN THE PRELUDE TO
HIS VISIT, WHICH WE WANT VERY MUCH TO AVOID. KUBISCH

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